

Dear Oregon Music Educators and Students,

The Oregon Band Directors Association (OBDA) is happy to announce the creation of a new event this year - The 2020 State Solo Invitational.

OBDA is working in coordination with the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), the American String Teachers Association (ASTA), the Oregon Music Education Association (OMEA), and with the permission of the OSAA to offer this opportunity to all of the 2020 state solo qualifiers from all 15 of the OMEA district solo contests. Registration for this event is free and open to any student that was submitted from their district contest for placement at the OSAA state contest. This includes all 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers as well as students that were submitted as 1st, 2nd, or 3rd alternates from their OMEA districts. To be clear - while OBDA is the primary organizer for the event, vocal and string soloists that qualified are also encouraged to participate as well as our wind instrument and percussion soloists.

This event is not a contest or championship. There will be no placements. Rather, all students that submit videos will receive written comments and a festival rating of either 1 (Outstanding) or 2 (Very Good) from the adjudicators. They will also receive certificates of achievement with their festival rating after the event.

OBDA is grateful to all of our partner organizations for their help with various aspects of this event. However, all registrations, submissions and questions regarding this event will be handled by OBDA, NOT OSAA or OMEA.

We have prepared a Guidelines and Best Practices document for all directors and participants. That document - as well as the registration portal are available at:

<https://www.oregonbda.org/digitalsolo>

Our goal is to promote musical engagement, practice, motivation and encouragement in this uncertain and unprecedented time. Our students have lost so many wonderful musical opportunities this spring due to the pandemic, and most of them are impossible to replace. However, our outstanding soloists can still perform from the safety of their homes. We can provide meaningful, professional feedback for them in an online format, and we can recognize and celebrate these students' dedication and musical accomplishments.

One of the many elements we discussed at great length and have addressed in the guidelines document has to do with accompaniment. Due to issues of public safety, etiquette, and equal access, no participant will be allowed to use an accompaniment of any kind. We very much understand the importance of each soloist's accompaniment. We understand that performing a solo without an accompaniment will not feel complete and it will make performing more difficult. However, not all students have the technology to be able to use electronic accompaniment. While some students may have a family member that could play for them, not all students are so fortunate. We can not encourage, condone or allow students to practice or perform with an accompanist as this would break both the letter and the intent of the governor's orders regarding

social distancing. Our guidelines do allow vocalists to use a keyboard or other device to hear a starting pitch and to hear additional pitches after sections of rest if needed.

### **Dates and Time**

Registration for this event is now open and will remain open until Friday, May 8 at 11:59PM.

Submissions for the event are due by Wednesday, May 20 at 11:59PM

Results will be posted on the OBDA site and shared with all partner organizations, directors, and principals on Wednesday, May 27

Certificates will be mailed by June 1.

Please read the guidelines and best practices document thoroughly. If you have any questions, please direct them to:

**[obdadigitalsolo@gmail.com](mailto:obdadigitalsolo@gmail.com)**

### **Directors,**

Please send this information out to your students ASAP. Our timeline for this is very tight. We do not have direct email addresses for the qualifiers, so it is up to directors to notify their students about this event. We ask all OMEA district chairs, and district solo festival chairs to assist with getting the word out about this event.

Thank you for supporting your students and music education in our state - even under these extraordinary circumstances.